

WEDDING CEREMONIES – TOWN OF FENWICK ISLAND

Ceremony on the beach – permit required

You may have your wedding ceremony on the public beach strand as long as you do not obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic. A permit is required and a fee and refundable deposit are also required. A Special Events Application form must be filled out and returned to the Fenwick Island Police Department along with a check for the permit fee and a separate check for the refundable deposit. The Chief of Police will issue a permit and authorize no more than six (6) temporary parking permits for the date of the wedding ceremony. These parking permits may be used at the beach-end of the designated street where the wedding is to be held and must be displayed hanging from the rear view mirror of the vehicle. Arrangements for additional parking are the responsibility of the permit holder. Paid parking permits are required and enforced between May 15 to September 15 and parking is at a premium during this time. Please also be considerate of the crowds on the beach strand during the beach season. The wedding party and guests should be aware that the public's access to the beach may not be restricted for the wedding. No walking on or disturbing of the dunes is allowed.

Should your wedding party exceed 75 guests, special permission must be granted by the Town Council. Additional fees apply (see fee schedule below.)

The Town of Fenwick Island does not allow chairs, tables, awnings, catering, alcohol or glass containers on the beach strand for the ceremony. No outdoor speakers, lighting or bathroom facilities are permitted without the approval of the Town Council.

Marriage license

Marriage licenses may be obtained from the Office of the Clerk of the Peace, Monday – Friday from 8:30am to 3:30pm, located at the Tunnell and Raysor Building, 30 East Pine Street, Georgetown, DE 19947. The Office of the Clerk of the Peace also officiates at weddings. The Town of Fenwick Island does not. Phone 302-855-7834 (24 hour information line), or 302-853-1717. www.sussexcountyde.gov/dept/cop.

Other venues

The State of Delaware Parks system has venues for weddings. The closest facility to Fenwick Island is the Indian River Life Saving Station. It is located approximately less than 10 miles north of Fenwick Island, just north of Bethany Beach. This site allows tents and catering. Contact information is 302-227-2800. www.destateparks.com/events/life-saving-station

The Bethany – Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce website has a listing of businesses in the area that can help you with your wedding plans. www.bethany-fenwick.org/wedding.htm. Phone # is 302-539-2100.

Fee Schedule

| | |
|---|--|
| Deposit (refundable) | \$50 |
| Permit fee for up to 75 persons (nonrefundable) | \$150 |
| Permit fee for more than 75 persons (nonrefundable) | \$25 for each group of persons over 75 (requires Council approval) |
| Police coverage fee (nonrefundable) (required when more than 75 persons in attendance) | \$100 per hour |

Special Events Application

A Special Events Application form must be filled out and returned to the Fenwick Island Police Department along with a check for the permit fee and a separate check for the refundable deposit and police coverage fee (if applicable). Make checks payable to Town of Fenwick Island.

Return Special Events Application form along with separate checks for permit, deposit, police coverage fee (if required) to:

Fenwick Island Police Department
Attn: Chief of Police
800 Coastal Highway
Fenwick Island, DE 19944
302-539-2000